

William Bird Mansion
Mill and Main Streets
Birdsboro
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1024

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

WILLIAM BIRD MANSION

Location: Mill and Main Streets, Birdsboro, Berks County,
Pennsylvania

Present Owner: Borough of Birdsboro

Present Use: Y.M.C.A. and Police Station

Brief Statement
of Significance: A large Georgian house built by an early English
ironmaster who founded the town of Birdsboro.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Bird Mansion was built by William Bird in 1751. Bird was an ironmaster who came from England in 1736. He founded Birdsboro by building a forge on Hay Creek in 1740.

Reference: Edna M. Handwork, "Birdsboro--1740-1940," The Historical Review of Berks County, vol. V, no. 4 (July 1940), pages 119-122.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

From the spacing of the bays, the Bird Mansion appears to have been built in two parts, one of five bays and one of three bays, each having a central door with portico. Each part is now identical in all respects, except for the number of bays, and the house presents an eight-bay facade to the street.

The Mansion is a two-story stone house with the exterior walls stuccoed and painted white. The house is Georgian in its lines and proportions, although the windows and doors have been changed by later remodeling. There is practically nothing left of the original interior.

The exterior walls are apparently sound and the building is maintained by the city.

The walls and foundations are stone, the exterior being covered with stucco. There are two porches at each of the two doors on the south side. These porches have gable roofs with classic pediments, and are supported by two very crude and heavy posts at each corner which must have been added later and make the porches doubtful as well.

The doors and windows are not original. The present doors are of six panels, and the windows are four-pane double-hung sash. There are no shutters.

The roof is a gable with two dormers on the south and two on the north sides. There are two chimneys, one at each gable end. A good Georgian boxed cornice with a crown mold continues from the eaves across the gable end.

The interiors have been completely stripped and most of the partition walls removed.

The house faces south and is approximately fifty feet from the street.

Prepared by Drury B. Alexander
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